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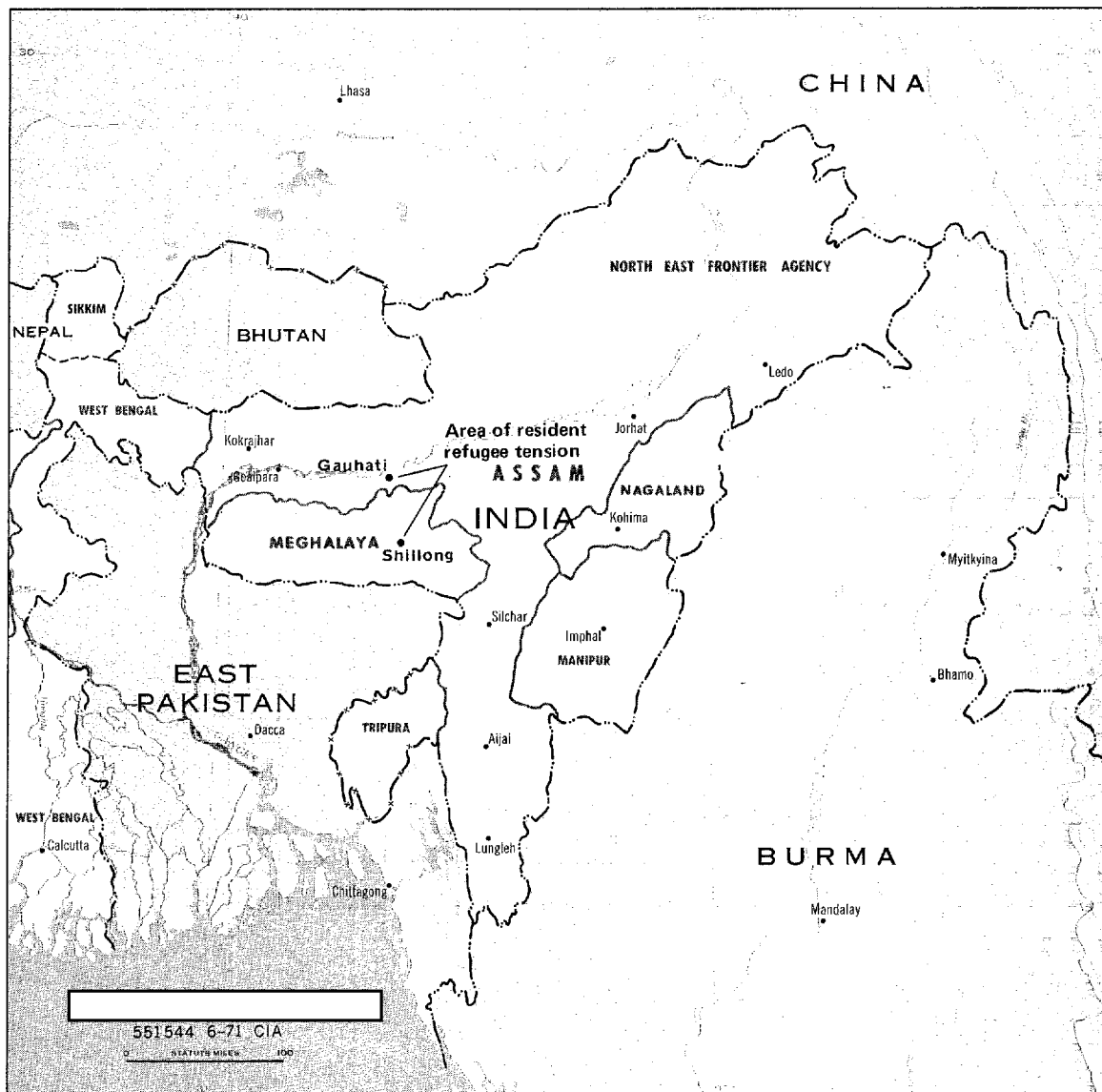
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Hostility Growing Toward East Pakistani Refugees



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INDIA: Hostility toward the East Pakistani refugees is growing among the Assamese and the tribal residents of northeastern India.

At the root of the hostility is fear that the refugees will ultimately refuse repatriation and permanently alter the area's customary way of life. Northeast India is largely populated by non-Hindu tribal peoples who have traditionally resisted domination by the minority Hindus. They have also resented the more or less steady flow of East Pakistani and other nontribal migrants--both Hindu and Muslim--who have entered their area in recent years.

According to the Indian press, animosity against the new influx of refugees caused near riots in April in Shillong and Gauhati, major cities in the states of Meghalaya and Assam. Last week an organization of tribal youth in Meghalaya called an antirefugee general strike in a town of 2,000 people which had had an influx of 22,000 East Pakistanis.

The intent of the tribal agitation may be to make the Indian environment so hostile that the refugees will be convinced to leave. According to the Indian press, some 6,000 returned to their homes, but it is doubtful that many more will be persuaded to return to East Bengal in the near future. Meanwhile, the tensions generated by the refugee problem could lead to serious disorders in and around the camps and to ethnic-religious violence elsewhere in the area.

Indian officials in New Delhi claim the reports of tribal unrest are exaggerated. The government is attempting to defuse the refugee situation by moving thousands of refugees out of the most congested border areas in the northeast to Gauhati in Assam, from where they will be sent on to less crowded locations. The refugee airlift--using four US-operated C-130s--is expected to begin within a matter of days; on 14 June Prime Minister

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Gandhi was touring Assam asking the people to face the situation with "courage and fortitude." The local Assamese, however, can be expected to demonstrate their displeasure with the new arrivals, and the Indian Army has already established a task force in Gauhati in an effort to ensure the security of the refugee operation.

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NETHERLANDS: Seven weeks after national elections, marathon meetings between formateur Steenkamp and the floor leaders of the five prospective coalition parties have finally laid the basis for an overall government program.

Last week's negotiations were billed as having a make-or-break character. Professor Steenkamp was successful in producing a compromise on an economic program, regarded as the most difficult part of the talks. The compromise provides that any new government expenditures will be financed by economies elsewhere in the budget, and that any tax increases will be tied to real income gains.

Steenkamp's previous efforts had been thwarted by the stringent anti-inflationary proposals of the Liberals and the even harder negotiating stance of the Democratic Socialists '70, which called for reductions in taxes and government expenditures. On the other hand, leaders of the three confessional parties were unreceptive to the prospect of long-term economizing, which could jeopardize their campaign commitments to expand housing, elementary education, and development aid. The Catholic Party's prolabor wing, for which Steenkamp ironically is a spokesman, and the Dutch trade unions generally regard governmental austerity as a very bitter pill.

Final reconciliation of these two groups is, however, by no means assured, especially because agreement has not been reached on the specific issues of housing, defense spending, and development aid. Moreover, the current wage curb ends in two weeks and the possible explosion in wage demands could complicate coalition negotiations, or at least present trying circumstances for any government that might be formed. Nevertheless, the growing seriousness of the domestic economic situation, as well as the lack of any easy and obvious alternative coalition combination, should continue to impel the five parties toward further cooperation in forming a government.



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MOROCCO: More student troubles have erupted as the long-awaited trial of 193 leftist dissidents gets under way this week.

In a clash with police last Thursday, students at the Mohamed V University in Rabat caused considerable damage to university property; three of them were wounded by police fire. More than 500 students had just met to discuss a strike that some advocated as a means of pressing the administration to postpone final examinations, scheduled for late this month.

The problem of the schedule for final exams has festered since mid-May, when students boycotted classes for 24 hours--and some for most of the week--as a gesture of sympathy with the accused dissidents. A government spokesman told Parliament last week that the dissidents had been involved with plotting, forming armed cells trained in terrorist activities, and planning to exploit student discontent.

Last week's clash seems likely to unify the badly divided student body, and a partial class boycott that has prevailed for over a week may be extended until the end of the school year. Meanwhile, the government is determined to demonstrate to the opposition that it is capable of dealing firmly with subversion and seems unlikely to concede to student demands.

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JAPAN: The National Police fear the possibility this week of the largest and most violent demonstrations in some time in opposition to the signing on 17 June of the Okinawan reversion agreement. The demonstrators are expected to employ "urban guerrilla" tactics, including widespread transportation disruptions and mass sitdowns. The police, a highly effective force, should be able to contain the demonstrations, although scattered violence is possible. The radical organizers will have difficulty generating widespread popular support for their actions because the general public, despite some doubts about certain aspects of the reversion arrangements, by and large is satisfied with the accord.

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SOMALIA: The Somalis again have detained some US-owned commercial craft. Five ships--two tugs, two barges, and a workshop--en route to the Persian Gulf, apparently were fired upon by a Somali plane and patrol boat and then escorted to Mogadiscio on 12 June. The ships are being charged with violating the Somalis' 12-mile territorial sea. The incident is reminiscent of last year's seizure of the US commercial ship, Midnight Sun, which was detained for about six weeks and came close to causing a major diplomatic incident between the US and the suspicious Somali military government. Early this month a US ship that appeared unannounced at Mogadiscio was detained briefly and then released with little difficulty. The Somalis have not yet indicated how they intend to handle the ships now under detention.

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PERSIAN GULF: The British-protected state of Bahrain may declare its independence this week, according to Arab press reports. Such a development would end all hopes for fashioning a nine-state federation out of the varied sheikhdoms on the Trucial Coast. Bahrain has been unable to get representation in the projected federation in proportion to its large population, and has been restrained from making a declaration only by the advice of friendly powers. Qatar, a neighboring state previously scheduled to join the federation, is expected to move for independence soon after Bahrain makes its declaration.

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GUATEMALA: The government has presented a US mining consortium with demands that could jeopardize a major investment project. In return for extending the starting date by nine months, the government has demanded that the Hanna Mining - International Nickel consortium relinquish its nickel ore concessions if work on the deposits has not begun by the extended deadline. Moreover, the government has refused to agree to conditions that would enable the companies to obtain US Government investment insurance, which would reduce their risk and aid their search for financing. Although the consortium already has invested \$28 million on port facilities and other construction work out of a total proposed outlay of \$280 million, it may be reluctant to accept these new conditions.

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